



NEWS RELEASE



NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

United States Department of Agriculture - Nebraska Agricultural Statistics Service
100 Centennial Mall North Suite 298 - Lincoln, Nebraska 68508 - Phone: (402) 437-5541

Contact: William G. Hamlin (402)437-5541

E-mail: nass-ne@nass.usda.gov

Web: www.usda.gov/nass/

NEBRASKA'S MARCH 1, 2003 PROSPECTIVE PLANTINGS

LINCOLN, Neb., March 31, 2003-Nebraska's producers expect to increase acreage planted to sorghum, oats, sunflowers and winter wheat (planted last fall) while decreasing acreage devoted to corn, soybeans, dry edible beans, sugarbeets and hay, according to USDA's Nebraska Agricultural Statistics Service.

Nebraska **corn** growers expect to plant 8.2 million acres in 2003, down 2 percent from last year but 1 percent above 2001. Of these acres, 40 percent are expected to be planted to insect resistant (Bt) varieties, 11 percent to herbicide resistant varieties and 4 percent to stacked gene varieties, compared to 34 percent, 9 percent and 4 percent respectively a year ago.

Nebraska producers expect to plant fewer acres of **soybeans** than the previous year. Expected plantings of 4.65 million acres in 2003, would be the third highest of record, down 1 percent from last year but 6 percent below the record high set in 2001. Of these acres, 87 percent are expected to be planted to herbicide resistant varieties, up from 85 percent last year.

Last fall **winter wheat** was sown on 1.75 million acres, up 6 percent from a year earlier but equal to two years ago.

Sorghum growers expect to plant 650,000 acres, 44 percent more than 2002, up 18 percent from 2001 and the largest total in five years.

Hay acreage for harvest, at 3.1 million, would be down 5 percent from last year. **Oat** planting intentions at 190,000 acres are up 9 percent from 2002. **Dry edible bean** producers intend to plant 160,000 acres, down 14 percent from a year earlier. **Sugarbeet** plantings of 42,000 acres would be down 26 percent from 2002. **Sunflower** planting intentions of 60,000 acres are up 3 percent.

These acreage estimates are based primarily on surveys conducted the first two weeks of March. This report is intended to assist growers in formulating their acreage plans for 2003. Actual acreage planted may vary from that indicated due to final farmer assessment of planting options, the effects of weather, availability of production inputs, and changes in expected prices for 2003 crops.

Access the National publication for this release at:
<http://usda.mannlib.cornell.edu/reports/nassr/field/pcp-bbp/pspl0303.pdf>